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Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I thank you for this opportunity to participate in this panel which highlights the social and economic importance of the fisheries, including its meaning for food security. This is a very important issue for the Brazilian Government, which has been struggling to develop fisheries with sustainability, with views to the social inclusion of its workers.

Regarding the discussion that we are having today, as many of you are aware, Brazil is an active member of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project (CLME), supported by the GEF and UN Agencies, and which embraces the Caribbean including the South America Caribbean, namely Colombia, Venezuela, French Guyana, Suriname, Guyana and the northernmost part of Brazil, which encompasses the States of Amapá and Pará.

In summary, we can say that CLME has a dual approach – an integrated management of fisheries resources based on an ecosystemic view.

This integrated management of fish resources takes into consideration that those resources are not limited themselves to geopolitical aspects of national borders, that is to say, they trespass borders of one country into another. In that sense, in order to ensure a common standard for the exploration of those resources, it is necessary that the participating countries practice an integrated management fishery policy when shared stocks occur.

This mechanism assures that – while a country maintains a fishery stock managed under sustainable limits – another country will not deplete it.

The second approach of CLME can be seen as a holistic perspective, as it considers fisheries not only in terms of the resource itself, but also takes into consideration the whole productive chain, the human activities, the bycatch, and other elements that are part of the biome.

This approach simply consolidates the understanding that fisheries cannot be merely considered as a catch activity, but rather a comprehensive activity that embraces part of the production chain and elements of the environment.

Brazil, as a member of CLME, supports this dual approach and highlights that the compilation, the sharing of existing information, and the regional congregation of countries, as in CLME, are the basis to an effective and sustainable management of fisheries resources, contributing enormously to the maintenance of species in the long run.

Thank you.